21. (Once Amended) An isolated polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

a) a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:5,

b) a polypeptide comprising a naturally occurring amino acid sequence at least 90% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:5, and

B12

c) an immunogenic fragment of the polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:5.

22. (Once Amended) An isolated polypeptide of claim 21 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:5.

23. An isolated polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide of claim 21.

24. An isolated polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide of claim 22.

B13

25. (Once Amended) An isolated polynucleotide of claim 24 comprising the polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:14.

26. A recombinant polynucleotide comprising a promoter sequence operably linked to a polynucleotide of claim 23.

27. A cell transformed with a recombinant polynucleotide of claim 26.

28. A method of producing a polypeptide of claim 21, the method comprising:

a) culturing a cell under conditions suitable for expression of the polypeptide, wherein said cell is transformed with a recombinant polynucleotide, and said recombinant polynucleotide comprises a promoter sequence operably linked to a polynucleotide encoding the polypeptide of claim 21, and

b) recovering the polypeptide so expressed.

B14

29. (Once Amended) A method of claim 28, wherein the polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:5.

30. An isolated antibody which specifically binds to a polypeptide of claim 21.

31. (Once Amended) An isolated polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of:

a) a polynucleotide comprising the polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:14,

b) a polynucleotide comprising a naturally occurring polynucleotide sequence at least 90% identical to the polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:14,

c) a polynucleotide complementary to a polynucleotide of a),

d) a polynucleotide complementary to a polynucleotide of b), and

e) an RNA equivalent of a)-d).

32. An isolated polynucleotide comprising at least 60 contiguous nucleotides of a polynucleotide of claim 31.

33. A method of detecting a target polynucleotide in a sample, said target polynucleotide having a sequence of a polynucleotide of claim 31, the method comprising:

a) hybridizing the sample with a probe comprising at least 20 contiguous nucleotides comprising a sequence complementary to said target polynucleotide in the sample, and which probe specifically hybridizes to said target polynucleotide, under conditions whereby a hybridization complex is formed between said probe and said target polynucleotide or fragments thereof, and

b) detecting the presence or absence of said hybridization complex, and, optionally, if present, the amount thereof.

34. A method of claim 33, wherein the probe comprises at least 60 contiguous nucleotides.

35. A method of detecting a target polynucleotide in a sample, said target polynucleotide having a sequence of a polynucleotide of claim 31, the method comprising:

a) amplifying said target polynucleotide or fragment thereof using polymerase chain reaction amplification, and

b) detecting the presence or absence of said amplified target polynucleotide or fragment thereof, and, optionally, if present, the amount thereof.

36. A composition comprising a polypeptide of claim 21 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

B16 37. (Once Amended) A composition of claim 36, wherein the polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:5.

38. A method of screening a compound for effectiveness as an agonist of a polypeptide of claim 21, the method comprising:

a) exposing a sample comprising a polypeptide of claim 21 to a compound, and

b) detecting agonist activity in the sample.

39. A method of screening a compound for effectiveness as an antagonist of a polypeptide of claim 21, the method comprising:

a) exposing a sample comprising a polypeptide of claim 21 to a compound, and

b) detecting antagonist activity in the sample.

40. A method of screening for a compound that specifically binds to the polypeptide of claim 21, the method comprising:

a) combining the polypeptide of claim 21 with at least one test compound under suitable conditions, and

b) detecting binding of the polypeptide of claim 21 to the test compound, thereby identifying a compound that specifically binds to the polypeptide of claim 21.